



The Old Ironsides Report



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82nd Airborne Screens ICDC Recruits

**Story and photo by Spc. Jason B. Baker
49th PAD (ABN)**

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Volunteers for the new Iraqi Civil Defense Corps (ICDC) received a medical screening and their first payment of \$50 and are ready to train.

Paratroopers of the 2nd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division stood up the first company of 120 ICDC soldiers. The ICDC is organized into two 47-man platoons and a 26-man support platoon.

"This is one of the first steps toward putting the security of the country into the hands of the Iraqi people," said Sgt. 1st Class Tom Kearney, ICDC senior instructor, Headquarters and Headquarters' Company, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment. "They are the seeds of the new (Iraqi) Army."

Over the course of three days, a team of five Iraqi physicians gave recruits a basic medical screening to ensure they were ready for training. The doctors reviewed each man's medical history, checked his motor skills, hearing, eyesight and recorded height, weight and vital signs.

Once the recruits' physicals were completed, the future soldiers formed into ranks to be paid \$50 U.S. dollars.

The soldiers were told they would be paid prior to joining, said Kearney. The payment is an incentive for the recruits to come back for the first day of training.

Recruits like Tasim Hamsed were attracted by the idea of having a direct role in the security of his neighborhood and country.

"It is a good job because I will protect my country," Tasim said.

Tasim learned about the civil defense corps by reading a coalition newspaper and talking with a representative from his neighborhood council.

"(The council representative) told me there is a program to protect against thieves, looters and attackers," Tasim said.

Before Tasim and the rest of the recruits can begin helping the coalition secure the country, they will go through a four-week training program run by senior non-commissioned officers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

The first two weeks of training will focus on physical fitness, drill and ceremony, basic rifle marksmanship and basic individual soldier skills. The second half of training will focus on basic squad tactics, applying to cordon and search operations and traffic control points.

"These soldiers have the potential to be a tremendous asset to the units they work with," Kearney said. "They know the culture, language and town much better than we could hope to."

Once the ICDC training is complete each battalion of the brigade will be assigned a platoon to help the battalions in their daily operations.



Dr. Saed Safa Aldeen checks the eyes of an Iraqi Civil Defense Corps recruit. 120 recruits received the screening to insure they were ready to begin training.

Correction:

Because of an editing error, the number of District Advisory Councils in Baghdad was incorrectly reported in yesterday's edition of the *Old Ironsides Report*. There are nine district councils in the city. District council members are selected from the 88 Neighborhood Advisory Councils. The number of neighborhood representatives on the district council is based upon the community's population. The Baghdad City Advisory Council consists of 37 members drawn from the district councils and is also based on the district's population.

NEWS

Thousands Flee Path of Hurricane Isabel

MOREHEAD CITY, N.C. (AP) - Traffic streamed inland from the vulnerable Outer Banks on Wednesday as thousands of residents and visitors alike headed for higher ground ahead of approaching Hurricane Isabel. The storm is expected to hit land Thursday morning. Thousands more were ordered to evacuate in Virginia.

Wesley Clark Joins Presidential Race

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) - Retired Army Gen. Wesley Clark entered a crowded and wide-open race for the Democratic presidential nomination on Wednesday. "We're going to run a campaign that will move this country forward not back," Clark said, promising to "talk straight to the American people."

Purported Saddam Tape Urges Resistance

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - A new audiotape purporting to carry the voice of ousted dictator Saddam Hussein was broadcast on Arab television Wednesday, demanding that U.S. troops withdraw from Iraq and saying that their defeat is inevitable. The speaker on the tape also called on Iraqis to join the resistance against the U.S.-led occupation and take to the streets in protests.

New Palestinian Leader to Offer Truce

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) - The incoming Palestinian prime minister said Wednesday he will offer Israel a comprehensive truce, and Palestinian officials said the militant group Hamas has signaled it might agree to stop attacks on Israelis. But Israeli leaders say they want to first see Palestinian action to take Hamas and other militant groups out of commission before considering a cease-fire.

Spanish Judge Indicts Osama Bin Laden

MADRID, Spain (AP) - A judge indicted Osama bin Laden and nine others Wednesday for their role in planning the Sept. 11 attacks, saying al-Qaida terrorists used Spain as a base. It was the first known indictment of bin Laden for the 2001 terrorist strikes. Investigative magistrate Baltasar Garzon indicted a total of 35 people for terrorist activities connected to bin Laden's al-Qaida organization.

SPORTS

Olympics May Drop Caffeine From Drug List

LONDON (AP) - Drinking too much coffee or taking a common cold tablet will no longer get athletes disqualified from the Olympics for a doping offense. A positive test for marijuana, though, will still result in a drug penalty. So will the medication at the center of American sprinter Kelli White's doping scandal.

A Smart Tip From 1AD Safety

Electrical Safety

1AD personnel working in an office noticed what smelled like burning plastic. The personnel followed the smell and found that the plug on the air conditioner was warm. The air conditioner was turned off and unplugged.

- Investigate any odor that smells like burning rubber or plastic.
- If you can safely disconnect the source of the electrical current, do so quickly.
- Always have an operational Fire Extinguisher available.

Chaplain's Thought for the Day: *Who is Great?*

Not unto us, O Lord . . . but to Your name give glory,
because of Your mercy, because of Your truth.

—Psalm 115:1

During World War II, Harry Truman became President of the United States when Franklin Delano Roosevelt died. Truman said he felt as if a great weight had been dropped on him, and he asked people to pray for him. It is said that his old colleague Sam Rayburn tried to help him be humble when he said, "They'll tell you what a great man you are, Harry, but you and I both know you ain't." In 2 Chronicles 26 we read about Uzziah, who was a remarkable king. He took office when he was 16 and ruled over the nation of Judah for 52 years (vv.1-3). He was God-fearing and led the nation into a long era of prosperity. His fame spread far and wide, but he apparently listened to people tell him how great he was. In his pride he assumed the role of the priest, a role God had clearly reserved for the descendants of Aaron. For this act of disobedience God afflicted him with leprosy (v.19).

On This Day In History: *August 20th 1968*

United Nations Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld dies when his plane crashes under mysterious circumstances near Ndola in Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia). Hammarskjöld was on his way to meet with Moise Tshombe, leader of the breakaway Congolese province of Katanga, with the aim of negotiating an end to the Congo crisis. On the night of September 18, 1961, Hammarskjöld was flying to Ndola to meet with Tshombe to negotiate an end to the bloodshed when his Swedish DC6 aircraft crashed just a few miles short of its destination. The secretary-general and 15 others were killed. Hammarskjöld's body was thrown out of the wreckage and came to rest in a sitting position beside a giant ant-hill. Many suspected that the plane had been shot down or exploded by a bomb, a theory that was reinforced when the sole survivor of the crash, an American security guard, spoke of hearing an explosion before the plane went down. In 1962, the Rhodesian Federal Inquiry Commission, which investigated the crash, concluded that the pilot flew too low and struck trees, thereby bringing the aircraft to the ground. Dag Hammarskjöld was posthumously awarded the 1961 Nobel Peace Prize.